

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

Claims 1 - 24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) A method for the generation of cracks on a coated polymer substrate, comprising:

- a) supplying a multilayer article comprising a deformable polymer substrate, a brittle layer adjacent said deformable polymer substrate, and a coating layer adjacent said brittle layer on a side of said brittle layer remote from said deformable polymer substrate;
- b) exerting a strain on said multilayer article such that cracks develop in said brittle layer, exposing surfaces in said cracks having no coating layer thereon.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said step of exerting a strain comprises unidirectionally stretching said multilayer article.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said step of exerting a strain comprises bending said multilayer article.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said step of exerting a strain comprises stretching said multilayer article in at least two directions.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said polymer substrate comprises a polyorganosiloxane elastomer and said brittle layer comprises an oxidized polyorganosiloxane.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said coating layer comprises a hydrophobic coating.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said coating layer comprises a first, hydrophobic coating, and a second coating on said first coating, said second coating comprising a substance which prevents attachment of biological organisms.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising coating said exposed surfaces with a crack surface coating which has different surface characteristics than said coating layer.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein said crack surface coating comprises at least one protein.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said oxidized polyorganosiloane layer is formed by oxidizing a surface of said polyorganosiloxane substrate.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said step of exerting a strain comprises stretching said multilayer article in at least two directions sequentially.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein following stretching in one direction, a crack surface coating is applied to exposed surfaces of cracks generated, prior to stretching in another direction.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, where said coating layer is a surfactant layer.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said surfactant is a non-ionic polyether surfactant.